

VOL. 1.

THE OPEN CHANNEL NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

It's the newsletter of Melbourne's prospective Community Television station - Open Channel. It's contributors are directors, staff and members of the Co-operative.

The newsletter is committed to co-operative education. Our need is to know, think and argue about choices, options, decisions and processes in an atmosphere of toleration and respect.

We hope the newsletter will reflect the diversity of views, activities, meetings, workshops and tape-making.

Open Line is our newsletter!

## WORKSHOPS

The Workshop Programme is growing and improving. The Workshops will be co-ordinated to include more hands-on experience for a range of people, as well as the broader seminar sessions. It will still be possible to test your toes in the water of commercial production and see behind the scenes of Channels 7, 9, 10 and 2 at the Director's Seminars (along the way accumulating intensive information about how it all hangs together behind the gloss). For a more extensive grounding in how to direct, a weekend course is scheduled in February 1981 to enable people to work on a script and direct a production from beginning to end. The experience will be a collective one, providing an opportunity to workshoppees in other areas, (script-writing, lighting, camera, makeup) to actively participate in a production and move towards working on a community production.

Open Channel offers the only Makeup Workshop in Melbourne. Also the Co-operative strives to

create a good working collective of scriptwriters who will produce potential community programming. Workshops in advanced production (studio camera, BVU edit, vision mixing) are held on request for people who have accumulated production experience. The participants will then have an opportunity to extend their experience in other workshops and on actual community productions.

Video Standby grew out of the Charles Tingwell Workshop and is now a flourishing independent production group, working regularly in Studio B on drama pieces. We hope this will become a positive development from other workshops.

For the future, Studio B may be made available to people who are interested in workshopping a studio piece - providing three black and white cameras, a vision mixing set up to practice on, at minimal cost. Ask Andrea for details.

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# CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

## what should be done?

What is the relevance of co-operative education to Open Channel?

The answer depends on the definition and importance of co-operative education. The purpose of co-operative education is to provide members with workers with an ongoing educational process so that they understand co-operative theory, act co-operatively in practice and accept the theory and practice.

Question: Are co-operatives democratic organisations with social purpose? The answer depends on the convincement and participation of members and workers which, in turn, requires an active and ongoing co-operative education programme.

While Open Channel is actively committed to democratizing the experience of using and understanding the media, it has not developed a comprehensive co-operative education programme concerned with the theory and practice of co-operatives.

There are too many individuals who exploit the resources of Open Channel for their own benefit and only join as members to become eligible for reduced hiring rates. This provides no sound basis for a democratic and developing co-operative. This situation has continued because of the collective failure of the Board and the staff to seriously meet the need for co-operative education.

What should be done?

Some of the possibilities include a more thorough induction of applicants for membership, regular video screenings, the incorporation of co-operative education within the workshop programme, the provision of meeting space for members, monthly co-operative education meetings for staff, the recruitment of members on working parties and a more systematic and accessible dissemination and demystification of decisions and decision-making processes. This newsletter is, of course, critical to co-operative education.

by: David Griffiths.

## projects on the go

GAI MOONEY IS DOCUMENTING A WOMEN'S PLAY BY MOSS CALLED "SPINNING"

EVE ASH IS DOCUMENTING SEGMENTS OF THE "TRAM SHOW" - STILL IN PROGRESS.

PAT HUNDER HAS COMPILED A COLOUR TAPE ON A PILOT CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME.

DOUG COWAN HAS SHOT SEGMENTS FOR A PILOT PROGRAMME ON ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE.